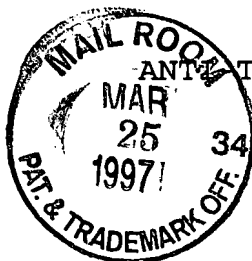


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ANTI-THEFT METHOD FOR DETECTING THE UNAUTHORIZED
OPENING OF CONTAINERS AND BAGGAGE

ABSTRACT

~~The present invention introduces a method for protecting~~
5 ~~against the unauthorized opening of shipping containers in a~~
~~first embodiment.~~ A simple trip-wire or magnetic circuit
associated with a shipping container provides continuity,
which is detected electrically. Simply, if continuity is
disabled by a forced entry of the container, electrical
10 detection means, such as a radio-frequency-identification
(RFID) tag, will alert the owner or monitoring station. The
trip-wire concept would require the replacing of a broken trip
wire (resulting from forced entry), while the magnetic circuit
concept can be reused repetitively. ^{In a Second Embodiment a}
15 ~~comprises a magnetic circuit approach in which the magnetic~~
~~circuit and the detection device (RFID tag) are embedded into~~
~~the shipping article during manufacturing.~~ The preferred
detection device, an RFID tag, could also be a battery backed
transceiver type on which a replaceable or rechargeable
20 battery could be mounted on the inside of the shipping
container during manufacturing. The RFID tag would
communicate with an interrogator unit, which could be
connected to a host computer. The interrogator and/or the
host computer and/or other alarm devices would then monitor
25 ^{the} ~~the~~ shipping container's status (opened or closed).